

CLAIMS

1. A method for time-synchronization of at least two radio access modules of a multimode communication terminal capable to function according to at least two distinct radio access technique in a cellular telecommunication

5 network in which one of said radio access modules is active in a current cell and the other radio access module is in a passive state in said current cell, said method comprising steps of:

(a) measuring for each of cells adjacent to the current cell a time offset T_{offset} between start of a specific frame of the first radio technique and start of a
10 specific frame of the second radio access technique; and

(b) using the time offset T_{offset} measured in step (a) for synchronizing the passive radio access module with the active radio access module.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of activating the passive radio module from the active radio access module.

15 3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, comprising a step of updating a value of the offset T_{offset} on each change of the current cell and for each neighboring cell associated with the radio access technique of the passive module.

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the mobile terminal is a UMTS/GSM dual-mode terminal and wherein the predefined
20 duration T_{offset} is a time difference observed on GSM defined in standard 3GPP TS 25.215.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the activation of the passive access module is made immediately before the measurements on cells adjacent to the current cell.

25 6. A device for time-synchronizing at least two radio access modules of a multimode communication terminal capable to function according to at least two distinct radio access techniques in a cellular telecommunication network in which

one of said radio access modules is active in a current cell and the other radio access module is in a passive state in said current cell, said device comprising:

means for measuring a time offset T_{offset} between start of a specific frame of the first radio technique and start of a specific frame of the second radio access technique; and

means for synchronizing the passive radio access module with the active radio access module using the time offset T_{offset} .

7. A multimode mobile terminal comprising:

a radio access module dedicated to each operating mode;

a clock generator associated with each radio access module; and

a unit for calculating a time offset T_{offset} between start of a specific frame of a first operating mode and start of a specific frame of a second operating mode in a cellular telecommunication network,

wherein said mobile terminal comprises a central interface capable to generate a clock signal of a passive radio access module shifted with respect to a clock signal of an active radio access module concerning said duration T_{offset} .

8. The mobile terminal according to claim 7, wherein said central interface comprises a module for generating an order for activating the passive radio access module.

9. The mobile terminal according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said mobile terminal supports a UMTS network and a GSM network.